

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 862

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend The Duck River Watershed Association and The Nature Conservancy for their efforts to protect the Duck River.

WHEREAS, the Duck River Watershed begins on the Eastern Highland Rim in southern Middle Tennessee, drains the southern portion of the Nashville Basin, and splits the Western Highland Rim as it flows 270 miles to its confluence with the Tennessee River; and

WHEREAS, the Duck River drains parts of eleven counties, and the Duck River Watershed covers approximately 2,730 square miles, primarily in Coffee, Bedford, Marshall, Maury, Lewis, Hickman, and Humphrey counties; and

WHEREAS, the Duck River is one of the most scenic, biologically diverse, and ecologically important rivers in the world; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is considered by scientists to be the most species-rich inland state; its concentrated biodiversity includes the world's five most threatened types of plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, the Duck River contains a number of animals found nowhere else on earth; and

WHEREAS, the Duck River contains more fish species than are found in all of Europe; and

WHEREAS, the Duck River contains 54 species of mussels, 22 species of river snails, and 151 fish species; and

WHEREAS, the Duck River supports an extraordinary variety of species, thus signifying a healthy river and ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the 1.8 million acre Duck River Watershed is faced with a number of challenges, including growth and increased water demands, making the maintenance of its ecological integrity a monumental and compelling endeavor; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy is dedicated to the long-term conservation of the Duck River; The Nature Conservancy, with its field office in Columbia, Tennessee, and under the guidance of Director Leslie Collie, has been a leader in studying and researching the Duck River and working with communities to protect and preserve the natural heritage of the river; and

WHEREAS, the Duck River Watershed Association, which is led by President Marshall Spencer, Vice-Presidents Sherry Beard and Richard Quin, and an outstanding Board of Directors, has worked to protect and preserve the ecological health and biodiversity of the Duck River; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo River is a major tributary to the Duck River and is known as an outstanding river containing over 100 fish species; and

WHEREAS, the National Geographic Society has undertaken a two-year study to determine the ten most biodiverse places in the world and has listed the Duck River as one of the ten most biodiverse places on the planet; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend The Duck River Watershed Association and The Nature Conservancy for their outstanding efforts in protecting the scenic Duck River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.